

**RED RIVER VALLEY WATER SUPPLY STUDY**  
**Water Users Meetings**  
**Summary Report**

As a result of the Dakotas Water Resources Act (DWRA) of 2000 the Secretary of Interior (Secretary) was directed to conduct a comprehensive study of the water quantity and quality needs for the Red River Valley in North Dakota. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will be conducting the study for the Secretary. The study will require two products to be developed. The products include the development of a report on Red River Valley Water Needs and Options (Needs and Options Report) and the development of a Red River Project Environmental Impact Statement. Reclamation will be the sole preparer of the Needs and Options Report. The State of North Dakota will participate with Reclamation in preparing the Red River Project EIS.

To facilitate development of the Needs and Options Report, Reclamation conducted a series of eight meetings throughout the Red River valley to introduce North Dakota water users to the Red River Valley Water Supply Study. The meetings were held during the week of October 7-10, 2002. The primary purpose of the meetings was to inform water users and local decision-makers of the ongoing study, to let them know how they can participate in the study, and to inform them of the possibility of being contacted at a future date for additional, more detailed data.

A meeting notice letter was sent to 1,343 people on September 15<sup>th</sup> to inform them of the meeting and encourage their participation in the process, Attachment 1. The meeting notice was sent to city council members, rural water managers and directors, water system operators, water resource district managers, mayors, city auditors, regional planners, economic development planners, county commissioners, state water commission members, Garrison Conservancy District members, and Red River valley legislators. The State Water Commission compiled the water user mailing list and made the arrangements for the meeting facilities. The water user mailing list was previously provided to Reclamation and is not included in this report.

A series of meetings were held with water users during the week of October 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> at the following locations:

<b>City</b>	<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Location and Address</b>
Grafton	October 7 <sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM	Courthouse – Farmers Room, 600 Cooper Avenue
Langdon	October 7 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM	Courthouse – North Meeting Room, 901 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street
Grand Forks	October 8 <sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM	Ramada Inn, 1205 N 43 <sup>rd</sup> Street, (Jct. Of 1-29 and Hwy 2)
Hillsboro	October 8 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM	Courthouse, 114 Caledonia Avenue
Fargo	October 9 <sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM	Kelly Inn, 3800 Main Avenue, (Main and 1-29)
Valley City	October 9 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM	Eagles Club, 345 12 <sup>th</sup> Avenue NE
Wahpeton	October 10 <sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM	Hughes Shelter in Chahinkapa Park, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Street and 8 <sup>th</sup> Avenue North
Lisbon	October 10 <sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM	Eagles Club, 6540 Hwy 32 (one mile North of Lisbon)

The same meeting format was followed at each meeting. Dean Karsky, Reclamation, conducted the meeting and John Paczkowski, State Water Commission, provided the introductions. The meetings were about 1 1/2 hours long, depending upon the number of questions raised and the length of discussion.

Dean Karsky presented a power point presentation that focused on the agenda items including: study background; water needs to be addressed in the study; previous studies that have been conducted; the current study process; avenues for water users to participate in the study; and information regarding upcoming activities associated with the study. Much of the presentation was devoted to alternatives that had been identified in previous studies.

Displays describing the study process and alternatives identified in previous studies were available for viewing 1 hour prior to the start of the meeting.

The following informational material, regarding the study, was also provided: a Red River valley basin map, the Red River Valley Water Supply Study Newsletter, the study alternatives identified in previous studies, and comment cards.

A total of 102 people attended the meetings. Several individuals attended more than one of the meetings. Attendance at the meetings follows: Grafton- 17, Langdon-6 (2 repeats), Grand Forks- 11 (2 repeats), Hillsboro-4 (2 repeats), Fargo-17 (2 repeats), Valley City-23 (2 repeats), Wahpeton-11 (2 repeats), Lisbon-13 (2 repeats), Attachment 2.

Reclamation and State Water Commission staff attending the meetings included: Dean Karsky, Reclamation, attended all meetings. Darrin Goetzfried, Reclamation, attended the first 5 meetings and Signe Snortland, Reclamation, attended the last three meetings. John Paczkowski and Linda Weispfenning, both with the State Water Commission, attended all eight meetings.